

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a telecommunications network, an apparatus for controlling a plurality of remote switching systems, comprising:

a plurality of control computers in a least two processing sites for processing a plurality of calls being routed through said plurality of remote switching systems in which said switching systems are in a location other than the processing sites;

a signaling network having a switching node in each of the processing sites for which the control computers exchange call processing data with said plurality of remote switching systems; and

a central network manager operatively coupled to the plurality of control computers and the switching nodes in each processing site, the central network manager configured for managing and monitoring the call processing data being exchanged on the signaling network between the plurality of control computers and the plurality of remote switching systems so as to reconfigure loading of call processing data being exchanged on the signaling network.

2. The switching system of claim 1, wherein one processing site includes a first plurality of control computers and the other processing site includes a second plurality of control computers, the central network manager signals at least one of the computer computers in the first plurality of control computers to control the plurality of remote switching systems operatively coupled to the second plurality of control computers.

3. The switching system of claim 1, wherein at least one of said control computers is configured to control loading of call processing data on the signaling network responsive to a command from the central network manager.

4. The switching system of claim 3, wherein each of the switching nodes of the signaling network comprises at least a TCP/IP server for exchanging call processing data.

5. The switching system of claim 3, wherein at least one of the switching nodes comprising an multiple-protocol switch for converting call processing data between asynchronous transfer mode and synchronous transfer mode.

6. A method for controlling a plurality of remote switching systems, comprising:  
providing a plurality of control computers in a least two processing sites for processing a plurality of calls being routed through said plurality of remote switching systems in which said switching systems are in a location other than the processing sites;

providing a signaling network having a switching node in each of the processing sites for which the control computers exchange call processing data with said plurality of remote switching systems; and

providing a central network manager operatively coupled to the plurality of control computers, and the switching nodes in each processing site in which the central network manager manages and monitors the call processing data being exchanged on the signaling network

between the plurality of control computers and the plurality of remote switching systems so as to reconfigure loading of call processing data being exchanged on the signaling network.

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